

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 340

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Harry Wayne Wampler
of Lenoir City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Harry Wayne Wampler, the founder and guiding force behind Wampler's Farm Sausage and a devoted civic leader, volunteer, and philanthropist in his native Lenoir City; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler began his illustrious career at Wampler's Farm Sausage and was active in the meat packing business for a lifetime, even until the week of his passing; and

WHEREAS, he still served as secretary/treasurer and vice chairman of the board of Wampler's Farm Sausage and was chief executive officer of Family Brands International; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler had previously served as vice president of Elm Hill Meats and chairman of the board of Baltz Brothers Packing Company; and

WHEREAS, although he was highly successful in business, Mr. Wampler was most proud of his public service with a variety of organizations; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman of uncommon integrity and character, Mr. Wampler served as a Lenoir City councilman for twenty-six years, vice mayor of Lenoir City for sixteen years, and a member of the Lenoir City Utilities Board for twenty-six years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler was deeply involved in politics and had served as chairman of numerous political campaigns for candidates for president, governor, state senate, state house of representatives, and local offices; he twice served as chairman of the Loudon County Republican Party, was a member of the State Republican Executive Committee from 1970-1974, and as a member of the Electoral College cast his vote for Richard M. Nixon for President in 1972; and

WHEREAS, he was named Tennessee Republican Statesman of the Year in 2003 in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the GOP, and he capped off his political career by serving in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 2007-2008; and

WHEREAS, Harry Wampler served his community and fellow citizens as a board member for many organizations, including East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Roane State Community College, Harrison Chilhowie School, Small Business Bureau, United Way, SunTrust Bank, Third National Bank, Bank of Loudon County, and Fort Loudon Savings and Loan, which he founded; and

WHEREAS, a twenty-five-year member of the local Civitan Club, Mr. Wampler twice served as president and had been honored as its Man of the Year, an accolade he also received from the local Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler expressed his devout faith as a member of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, where he served as a deacon and trustee; he had served as chairman of the deacons numerous times and chaired many committees; and

WHEREAS, Harry Wampler was the oldest of the seven children born to Reverend Joe and Agnes Wampler; after graduating from Lenoir City High School, he served in the U.S. Army Reserve and found his love for cooking as a military chef; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Bobby Wampler; sister, Bennie Wampler Roach; "brother" cousin, Ted Wampler, Sr.; and brother-in-law, Richard "Bud" Wilburn; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Jennifer Lauderdale Wampler; sons, Joseph Wampler, Jeremiah (Shinae) Wampler, Tim (Chita) Wampler, Chris (Angela) Wampler, and Paul (Beth) Wampler; grandchildren, Aaron Wampler, Rachel (Weston) Overton, Becca (Taylor) Kagley, Madison (Tyler) Mills, McKenzie Wampler, Norris Wampler, Cassie Wampler, Zachary Wampler, Adam Wampler, and Wilder Wampler; sweet siblings, Newell (Leonard) Grimes, Violet (the late Richard "Bud") Wilburn, Janet (Alvin) Clemmer, and Riley (Vicki) Wampler; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Harry Wampler has been warmly described as "the greatest of entrepreneurs, wisest in the civic, county, and community affairs, most generous of caregivers, and most passionate in his love for God and his family"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember this gentleman who positively impacted many lives during his influential career; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Harry Wayne Wampler, reflecting fondly upon his legacy of acumen in business, philanthropy in his community, and devotion in family and religious life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many friends of Mr. Wampler.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.